

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: 72-21

Building Date: 1928

Building Name: Highland Park School (Highland Park Staff Development Center)

Location: 6501 Lowland Drive, Highland Park

Public/School/Unoccupied/Poor/Accessible

Description

The Highland Park School, built in 1928, is a one-story brick, hipped roof building with a tri-partite main elevation. The central entrance is in a projecting frontispiece surmounted by a stepped parapet. Built into a hillside, the building stands on a high foundation having a full basement with ground level ingress/egress. Located overlooking Lowland Drive in the Highland Park Subdivision, the old school has long been a landmark in the community. It forms the north wing of a larger brick school building formed by successive additions in 1949, 1958 and 1965.

Significance

The Highland Park School is significant as the second high school built for black students in Prince George's County. Students from as far away as Bowie rode the bus to attend high school at Highland Park. The school was a focal point in the streetcar suburb of Highland Park, platted between 1904 and 1925. The Highland Park School is also architecturally significant, as a good example of a circa 1928 architect-designed school building with colonial revival style details. Colonial revival architectural details include the arched entryway surmounted by a keystone and decorative plaques, the brick stringcourse, and use of stone or concrete for windowsills and as a cap for the stepped parapet.

Acreage: 5 acres

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870 - 1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning,
Education

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: School

Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG-72-21

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

Historic Highland Park School

and/or common Highland Park Staff Development Center

2. Location

street & number 6501 Lowland Drive

not for publication

city, town Landover

vicinity of

congressional district 5

state Maryland 20786

county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>district</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<u>occupied</u>	<u>agriculture</u> <u>museum</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>private</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<u>commercial</u> <u>park</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u> <u>private residence</u>
<u>site</u>	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u> <u>religious</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u>government</u> <u>scientific</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u> <u>transportation</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unused

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Prince George's County Board of Education

street & number 14201 School Lane

telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro

state and zip code MD 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse

liber 323

street & number Main Street

folio 10

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date

federal state county local

7. Description

Survey No. ^{PC} 72-21

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Highland Park School, built in 1928, is a one-story brick hipped-roof building with a tripartite main elevation. The central entrance is in a projecting frontispiece surmounted by a stepped parapet. Built into a hillside, the building stands on a high foundation having a full basement with ground level ingress/egress. Located overlooking Lowland Drive in the Highland Park Subdivision, the old school has long been a landmark in the community. It forms the north wing of a larger brick school building formed by successive additions in 1949, 1958 and 1965.

The east, main elevation of the old school building has tri-partite massing, with a large, three-bay main block flanked by two recessed side bays. The central entrance bay is in a frontispiece, projecting forward approximately 2 feet from the main block, surmounted by a stepped parapet. The entrance door is recessed, reached through a round arched opening into an open vestibule. The round arch is constructed of a double row of brick headers, with white-painted stone or concrete blocks marking the impost and the keystone. The entrance is reached by a flight of seven concrete steps. It is flanked on each side by a tripartite double-hung sash window. These windows have a large central sash of 12/12 lights flanked by 2 narrow 6/6 light sashes. The window sills are of white-painted stone or concrete.

The stepped parapet surmounting the entrance frontispiece is defined by a stone or concrete course along its outer edge. Patched areas in the brick of the parapet indicate that a rectangular plaque was once located above each of the two windows flanking the entrance and that the entranceway was surmounted by a shield-shaped plaque.

The north and south bays of the main elevation flank the entrance block. These bays are defined by a bank of five adjoining double-hung sash windows of 12/12 lights flanked by a small 6/6 double-hung sash window at either end of the bay. The northernmost of these small windows has been closed and bricked over, as has the one south of and adjoining the central entrance bay.

The prominent boxed wooden cornice is located at the head of the windows. It is surmounted by a projecting metal roof gutter. This guttering system appears to leak because the wooden cornice below it is deteriorated in many places.

Built on a hillside, the building stands on a high foundation with a full basement at grade level. There is an exterior door to the basement at the southeast corner of the building. The common-bond brick walls are punctuated by a stringcourse of brick stretchers marking the division between the basement and first-story levels. A stringcourse of brick headers forms a narrow frieze beneath the prominent cornice. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingle.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

Set well back from the entrance block is the rear block of the building. It has a separate hipped roofline, and projects one bay to the north and south of the entrance block. Each of these north and south bays has an entry in its east elevation, providing two secondary entrances to the school building. Originally these entrances were through a round-arch opening into a vestibule, as is the main entryway. The northernmost entrance has been closed and bricked over.

The two-bay north and south elevations of the school building are unfenestrated. There is a brick chimney on the south roof slope and another on the south elevation at the southwest corner of the building.

The four-bay west, rear elevation of the building is a low one story in height. It is defined by four banks of windows, with five adjoining 12/12 double-hung sash windows in each bank. This is the same window grouping as that on the front of the building. Two small single window openings separate the northernmost and southernmost window banks from the rest. These small windows are boarded up.

The interior plan of the school consists of a central hallway running north to south. Four classrooms are west of the hall, along the rear wall of the building. Two classrooms are east of the central hall, north and south of a short east-west entry hall. The principal's office was located on one side of the entrance door and a library on the other side.

The old Highland Park School functions as a wing on a newer building. It was used for offices after it was no longer used for classes. The adjoining newer building is still used for Board of Education offices. The older building has been closed and unused for the past 3 to 5 years, due to its poor condition.

The roof of the old school has visible holes in it and water has damaged the ceilings and floors. The exterior has damage to the cornice and window frames. Some window openings have been closed, as was the northernmost entry door when the new wing was added. A large air conditioning plant was constructed at the northeast corner of the building, without much regard to its appearance in association with the old wing of the building.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify local history)

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect Linthicum & Linthicum

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Highland Park School is significant as one of the earliest high schools built for black students in Prince George's County. Students from as far away as Bowie rode the bus to attend high school at Highland Park. The school was a focal point in the streetcar suburb of Highland Park, platted between 1913 and 1925. The Highland Park School is also architecturally significant, as a good example of a circa 1928 architect-designed school building.

In the 1927 session of Maryland's General Assembly, the Board of Education of Prince George's County and the County Commissioners were authorized to issue bonds to acquire funds for purchase of school sites, construction of new schools and repair of existing school buildings in the County. As a part of the authorization, \$20,000 or as much of that amount as necessary, was earmarked for construction and equipment of a school for black students at or near Highland Park. At the same time, an equal amount of funding was earmarked for a school for black students at Lakeland.¹

At the March 13, 1928, meeting of the Prince George's County Board of Education, \$1000 was appropriated toward the purchase of 5 acres of land for the school at Highland Park. The community was to raise a matching amount. By May of 1928, bids for construction of the school had been taken and the architects, Linthicum and Linthicum, were revising the plans.² The school opened in the fall of 1928.

Highland Park and Lakeland are tied for the place of the second high school for black students in Prince George's County, as both opened in 1928. The first high school for black students in the County was established in Upper Marlboro in 1923.³ There were 53 elementary schools for black children in the County when Highland Park School opened.⁴

The Highland Park School served all grades, from first through twelfth, when it opened. There were enough students to begin a class in each high school grade level, because of the availability of a bus to pick up students from

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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such communities as Glenarden, Glenn Dale, Bowie, Duckettsville, Lincoln, Collington and Fletchertown.⁵ Children also rode the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway, which had a stop north of the school at Sheriff Road. Prior to the construction of high schools in the County, some black students took the train and trolley lines downtown, to attend Cardozo, Armstrong and Dunbar High Schools.⁶

In the early years of the school, two teachers taught the elementary grades. Miss Lucy Gardener taught grades one through three and Mrs. A. P. Smith taught grades four through seven. After finishing seventh grade, students moved down the hall to take high school classes. Subjects including math, science, English, history, music and home economics were taught, with a different teacher for each subject.⁷

Three citizens from the community were named Trustees of the school each year. The Trustees ensured that the building was maintained and reported on any issues regarding it to the Board of Education. Trustees for the years 1928 through 1938 included James Woodward, E. D. Martin, a stone mason, Robert Harrod, a worker on the street railroad, Joseph Woodward, a carpenter, and Vincent Sprigg.

The architectural firm of Linthicum and Linthicum probably designed both the Highland Park and the Lakeland High School buildings.⁸ The buildings are similar in design and style. The Highland Park School is significant as a good example of an architect-designed school building of the 1920's. Its exterior appearance is largely unchanged from the time of its construction. It is a brick structure with Colonial Revival style details such as its tripartite massing, hipped roof, and round brick arches with keystones. There is a stepped parapet over the central entranceway, contributing to its formal, institutional appearance. There were comparatively few institutional buildings in the County in the early part of this century, and few architect-designed buildings. The Highland Park School was a landmark in its community.

Development at Highland Park occurred as early as 1904, although no plats from this period survive. The earliest recorded plat dates from 1913 and outlines a residential subdivision along the right-of-way of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railroad. The 1913 plat was filed by the Highland Park Improvement Company. In 1925, John L. Fletcher and Adolph Hohouser, officers of the Highland Park Improvement Company, registered an additional plat. Residents of Highland Park were vegetable farmers, laborers on the local produce farms, skilled tradesmen or government workers who took trains or trolleys downtown to work. Goods and services were obtained from the nearby town of Seat Pleasant. The two most prominent community institutions were the Highland Park Baptist Church, located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Hill Road and the electric railway right-of-way (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway), and the Highland Park School.⁹

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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The Highland Park School served high school students until the Fairmount Heights High School opened in 1950. It served as a junior high school and elementary school over the later years of its use. The building had 3 additions over the years. The first was of bathrooms, a kitchen and a multi-purpose room in 1949. Additional classrooms were added in 1958 and 1965, forming a new wing of the building larger than the original building itself.

NOTES

1. Laws of Maryland, Made and Passed at Session of the General Assembly, 5 January 1927-4 April 1927, Chapter 171, pg. 273.
2. Journal of the Board of Education, Minutes of Meetings, March 13, 1928, April 10, 1928 and May 8, 1928. Available at the Prince George's County Board of Education, Frederick Sasscer Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
3. The Public Schools of Prince George's County, from the Seventeenth Century to Nineteen Hundred Fifty, Compiled and Distributed in the Summer of 1976 by The Prince George's County Maryland Retired Teacher's Association, pg. 58.
4. Board of Education Minutes, May 8, 1928.
5. Ibid. pg. 62; and Board of Education Minutes, April 10, 1928; and interview with Clement Martin.
6. Interview with Clement Martin, former student and teacher at Highland Park School, May 22, 1991.
7. Ibid.
8. Board of Education Minutes, May 8, 1928.
9. Interview with Clement Martin; and United States Census, 1910, Prince George's County, 13th Election District.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See notes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Tax Map 66, parcel 47

Quadrangle name Washington East I

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 
Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | |

0 | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | |

H I L L S

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Preservation Planner

Prince George's County
organization Historic Preservation Commission

date June 1991

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive

telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust

CHAIN OF TITLE

Highland Park School
P.G. #72-21

323:10
5 May 1928
Deed

Washington T. Brown, The Maryland Home Title Insurance Company and Elizabeth L. S. Clagett to the Board of Education of Prince George's County ...subdivision of real estate of Philip Hill, deceased, called "Baltimore Manor".

270:418
21 Aug. 1927
Deed

Washington T. Brown to Maryland Home Title Insurance Company containing 10 acres of land ...a part of Philip Hill estate.

262:461
21 Aug. 1927
Deed

S. Marvin Peach and L.G. Sasscer - Assignees to Washington T. Brown, Baltimore Manor, 126:259.

126:259
18 June 1917
Deed

Frank Jenkins et ux to William L. Mantz, Baltimore Manor. Part of Lot 10 of subdivision of estate of Philip Hill. Alotted to Katherine Nalley, 124:408.

124:408
18 June 1917
Deed

William L. and Anabella Mantz to Frank and Mary Jenkins. Part of Lot 10 of Baltimore Manor - lot 2 as per plat of R.E. Latimer - 1906. Same conveyed to Mantz by Katherine Nalley, widow, October 15 1906, 27:532.

27:532
15 Oct. 1906
Deed

Katherine Nalley to William L. Mantz - for \$461 part of Lot 10 of Baltimore Manor, 10 acres.

highland.cot

7078

AR. 'E'

E.D.13

RD. —
F.D.18

2.73 A
325

5443
/ 082
1.73 A.
P. 5

5913

2.49 A. P.8

3.84 A

P. 10

38.34 A
P.24

PARCEL A
BOARD OF ED.

5862

-72-21

BOARD OF ED
323/10
5.00A

SNOW
HILL CORP.
6095/10

BOARD OF ED
3448/70
3.88 A.
ED. 1.12A P. 262

9276

CENTRAL
HILLS

HIGHLAND GARDENS

4386

21026 JE
A 6

PLEASANT HOUSE
PARCEL A BLK. 1
5059

YORKSHIRE KNO

PLAT
5294

1

6

20
19

21

RS A. 7

38°57'3"

Joins Map 12

400,000 FT

38°55'00"

40,000 FT

76°52'30"

Joins Map 19

840,000 FT

P.G. 22-21

20706

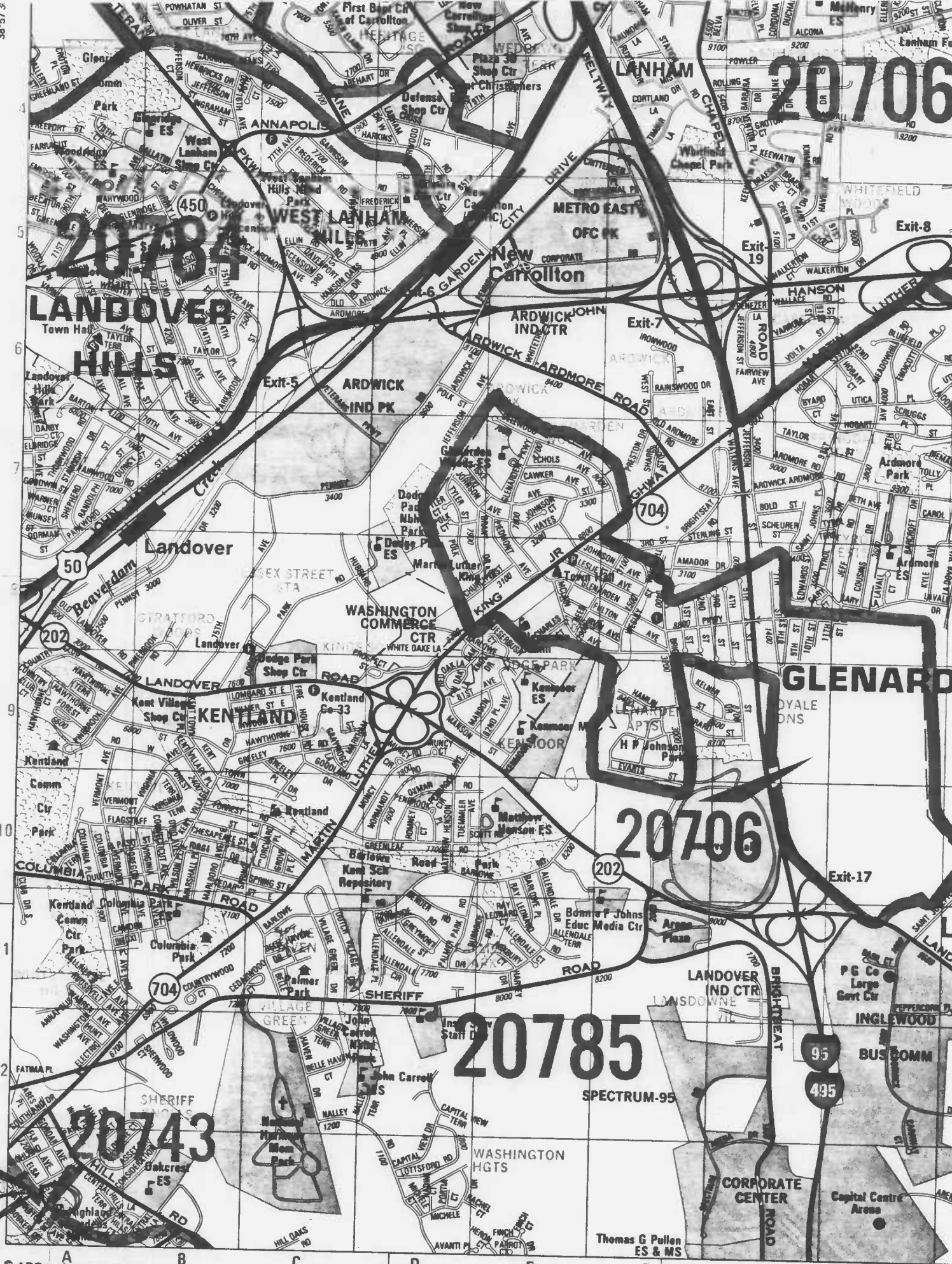
20784

LANDOVER
HILLS

20706

20785

20743





56
411
55'
408
407
95
1.5 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95
HALL 8 MI.
5050000m N



PG# 72-21
Highland Park School
Highland Park
Prince George's County
Washington East Quadrangle





Highland Park School
Prince George's Co.

Melina Krip

East elevation for NE

Feb. 1997



Highland Park School

P. A. Co.

Melvin King

February 1991

West elevation from NW



Pg. # 72-21

Highland Park School
Prince Georges Co. MD.
Mama King
Feb. 1991
East entrance

474

72-21



Pb[#] 72-21

Highland Park School
Prince Georges Co. M.D.
Marian King
Feb. 1991
Track elevation

204